

"THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK" OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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"CLIPPED WINGS THEY DO FLY" PANEL PRESENTATION & MOVIE "Mental illness is real – Recovery is possible" - MHA

WHITE PLAINS, NY – Sept. 17, 2015. The City of White Plains Youth Bureau and the White Plains Coalition For Living Wellness is proud to partner with Prestige Media and Michael Barbee to bring the NY Film Festival movie "Clipped Wings They Do Fly" to White Plains as part of 2015 Wellness Week. The event will feature a panel presentation, book signing, and movie screening at the Reckson Building, 360 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601 on Tuesday September 22nd, 6:00 – 9:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

CLIPPED WINGS THEY DO FLY is a fictional suspense movie that is loosely based on the novel of the same name. The movie highlights the life of the lead character, "Billy Ray Michaels" (played by Usman Sharif). Billy Ray suffers from Multiple Personality Disorder compounded with Paranoid Schizophrenia and finds himself on trial for murder, which he doesn't remember committing. Billy Ray finds himself entangled in a world of confusion, which unbeknownst to him, he created.

This story is told through the eyes of many of the people with which Billy Ray comes into contact, including his sister "Jenna," potential boss "Mr. Greene," and even "Junior," his son's mother. They are all cross-examined by the state's prosecution team during Billy's trial. From the witness stand, each tells of a different encounter with the defendant Billy Ray. At times delusional, Billy sits in the crowded courtroom unaware of the severity of his dilemma. Often he is found doodling in his journal, only to have created some noteworthy poetry that will be used by his defense team as they fight for his freedom.

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Due to the nature of the case, the District Attorney, "Adam Stevenson" (played by Bill Cobbs) is trying to maneuver through a strong political climate and attacks from elected officials such as "Mayor Goode" (played by Frankie Faison), who is using the trial for personal political gain.

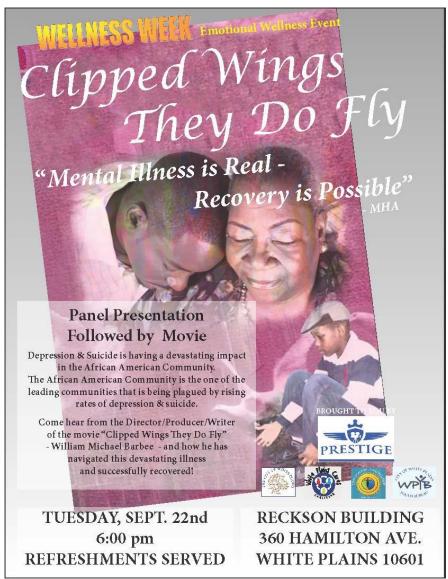
The DA must also balance the political pressures with the disposition of an overly zealous, cocky and at times arrogant Prosecutor (played by JD Williams, formerly of "The Wire") who needs to be reeled in.

Meanwhile, the film's protagonist, Dr. Shelly Neiderbach (played by Jen Bergum) is trying to conceal a compromised relationship with her client Billy Ray. Dr. Neiderbach remains committed to fighting for the rights of her client. The film's antagonist, Prosecutor Toby Johnson, uses his knowledge of the doctor's compromised relationship as bait as he seek to condemn the fate of her client.

Though fictional, this story was taken in part from some of the true emotional accounts of the Author William Michael Barbee, as he journeyed through psychiatric counseling for depression and suicide over 25 years ago. Today, Mr. Barbee is a successful author, businessman, and philanthropist who has been recognized for his leadership in the fields of business and mental illness awareness in the workplace. This year, the New Jersey Governor's Council recognized his production company, Prestige Media Productions, on mental health stigma with the prestigious "Ambassadors Award" for merit. He is a positive product that emerged from the harsh city streets of Newark, NJ and never forgot where he came from. It continues to be his and Prestige Media Productions' goal to artistically shed light on the issues of mental illness.

For more information please contact Mr. Frank Williams Jr. at 914-422-1378 or email him at fwilliams@whiteplainsny.gov. Flier attached.

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